boo goes there? it's THE THING

PREVIEWED IN HORRORWOOD
by Harvey Clarke & Bruce Robinson

From some creepy corner of the Cosmos an alien spaceship plummets from the forbidding dark night sky.

Out of control!

Bound to crash!

As the rocket's flaming trail sweeps past the camera's eye, in tribute to the original famous title the words THE THING are *burned* onto the screen.

The horror from the stars has reached Earth...

the first death

As the smouldering title fades from the screen, the fabulous film picks up its pace, a pace that never slackens.

In Antarctica, two surviving members of a Norwegian outpost are chasing a husky across the frozen wasteland. Not on foot but from the vantage point of a helicopter. The chopper is weaving about erratically as the men take potshots at the terrified dog. As they converse wildly in their native tongue, it becomes obvious that they're desperately determined to kill the fleeing animal.

The malfunctioning chopper crashes into the tundra just outside U.S. Outpost #31 and the lone survivor continues chasing the husky on foot.

Roused by the rifle shots, the members of the outpost converge outside to investigate.

Suddenly-inexplicably-incomprehensibly-the crazed Norwegian turns on the *men* and attacks *them*.

The station manager, Garry, has no choice: He fires back, killing the attacker. The deadman's motivation is now forever lost, shrouded in mystery.

hints of the horror to come

Despite the terrible weather conditions, chopper pilot MacReady and Dr. Copper take off to fly south to investigate the situation at the outpost there. Upon arrival, the menace they will soon face dimly begins to manifest itself as MacReady and Copper examine the interior of the outpost.

It's dark and—wrecked...like a poltergeist went wild and tore up the furnishings!



It's no bargain-basement at the foot of those frozen stairs!



Eleven members of the movie's all-male cast of twelve...but where's the twelth? Maybe he's already met up with the film's title character, hmm?

Mystery: They come upon a huge block of ice, partially melted and looking as tho it had contained—something. Near the ice they discover a polaroid; on the snapshot, a photo of members of the camp gathered around the block before it melted.

Copper finds a video recorder and a quantity of tapes which he gathers up for later investigation.

They also find the remains of two men, and a hideously distorted corpse.

less than human

Back at Outpost #31, the strange dog is prowling around the encampment. The husky is displaying some characteristics that are anything but canine.



If this member of Outpost #31 gave serious thought to the consequences of a fling with The Thing, he might well decide to use that noose on himself!



John Carpenter, dressed for the weather—& the celluloid chills he's creating!



Three bound suspects waiting for the results of Dr. Copper's blood serum test—which will determine if one of them is a Thing in man's clothing!

MacReady and Copper fit cassettes they brought back into the tape recorder and what they hear raises the hackles on the napes of their necks:

Shouts of confusion...

Sounds of fighting...

And thruout it all a certain *sound*, a weird *screeching* noise they cannot identify, unlike anything they have ever heard before.

Like nothing—earthly.

Then they turn to the video tapes.

Study them avidly.

In one particular recording they see the Norwegians gathered about a large oval shape buried in the ice. What can it be?

Drs. Blair & Copper examine the misshapen corpse, the malformed body that once was human but has now been transformed into a weird protoplasmic blasphemy of a man that defies analysis.

Meanwhile, the dog has been placed in a kennel with the rest of the dogs of Outpost #31. As the new dog sits on its haunches, staring at its companions thru dead, lusterless eyes, the pack becomes increasingly nervous—hostile—sensing an unknown danger in their midst.

They begin circling the intruder.
Move in to attack it.
Then:
The shadow of the new dog against the kennel wall.
The shadow suddenly lurches upward, seeming larger.
The kennel roars.

whew goes there

From this point on, the story is virtually John Campbell's enduring sci-fi classic, "Who Goes There?", with only minor exceptions.

MacReady and company charge into the barking, snarling kennel to discover the alien trying to take over the cell structure of the Outpost's dogs. While the men stare awestruck, paralyzed by the incredible sight before their disbelieving eyes, the camp mechanic, Childs, gathers his wits about him and destroys the Thing with an industrial torch.

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The following morning, Blair and several others study the torn remains of animal cadavers removed from the charnal kennel. Blair has already begun to half-suspect the terrible truth: That this alien creature is a master of cell manipulation and restructurization as well as a master of mimicry. "It could possibly have transferred to another dog before it was torched!" Or, worse yet, it could possibly have gotten to the kennel master, Clark.

Meanwhile, MacReady has flown his chopper southward in order to locate the site of the Norwegian's dire discovery. What he finds is another shocker: The exploded remains of a *flying saucer*, still half-concealed where it is buried in the ice. From the condition of the ice he concludes that the alien ship must have crashed on this spot *over a hundred thousand years ago.*



THE THING is alive and transforming into something less than human.

He also locates the spot where the Norwegians had carved a huge block of ice out of the ground.

madness gains the upper hand

Back at camp, Blair theorizes on how the alien entered the camp as a dog:

"...whenever it was revived, it... well, The Thing was probably disoriented...and realized it couldn't survive for long in our atmosphere ...but being the incredibly adaptable creature it was...it tried to become something that could survive...Before the Norwegians killed it...it somehow got to this dog...It was a life form that was able to imitate & reproduce whatever it ate or absorbed, cell for cell."



No matter how much lead you sling at The Thing, the odds favor the fiend!



From out of a man's stomach bursts this monstrosity to terrorize the world. It's name: THE THING.

Later, Blair goes mad.
Destroys the camp's radio.
Then disables the helicopter.
His ravings sound like pure insanity to the men trying to corner and subdue him. At last he is caught and locked up in an isolated toolshed 75 yards from the main compound.

the blood is the life!

Dr. Copper devises a method of determining which of the remaining men are human—and which aren't. A blood serum test. But the camp's storehouse of blood plasma is required and, to his horror & chagrin, the doc discovers the plasma's been sabotaged!

The outpost is thrown into chaos by this sinister development.

While the suspicious members are tightly bound and kept together, the remaining men scour the outpost for any evidence of monsters. One of the *things* cleverly succeeds in planting incriminating evidence against MacReady. Forced to protect himself by acting on his own, MacReady arms himself with sticks of dynamite and commandeers the camp by threatening to blow it up.

He forces the men to participate in another test: Reasoning that since each cell of the monster is a separate entity, MacReady deduces that if several drops of alien-contaminated blood are subjected to a hot needle, they will try to escape the pain.

The test is a huge success.

Everyone is exonerated, proven to be human.

Everyone except—

Palmer!

The outpost's second string chopper hopper.

Trapped, its disguise penetrated, "Palmer" begins to transform into a monster of the most hideous form & mien. I mean, its mien is *mean!*

A savage battle ensues and in a whirlwind of destruction, "Palmer" is finally bested by MacReady and destroyed.

the horror mounts

Suddenly, MacReady remembers Blair.

They break into the toolshed and what do they find? A small spaceship under construction. While everyone's been busy chasing the Thing's counterparts, the monster has been building a mini-ship.

Horror piles on horror and, finally, it's MacReady vs. the incredibly transformed monster.

A final furious encounter of the worst kind!

31 years later

When you leave the theatre after seeing this exciting film, remember the words of warning from the original THING (1951):

"*...Ladies & gentlemen of the globe—there is an enemy hovering over our heads—an enemy with an armada of flying saucers, and an army of super human and fantastic warriors. Every citizen of the world must become a sentinel watching the skies. Keep looking for the next flying saucer—watch the skies, watch everything over your head—throw a ring of watch towers around the earth.*

Keep looking-looking-looking..."

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